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BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

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A N N U A L                      R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and HOUSING OFFICER

for the year

1966.

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BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

Mayor : Alderman G.T. Barnard.

Deputy Mayor : Councillor R.W. Clitherow.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as on 31st December, 1966)

Chairman : Councillor R.W. Clitherow

Vice-Chairman : Alderman S.S. Wilson

The Mayor, Alderman G.T. Barnard, Alderman F.W. Goddard,  
Councillor Mrs. D.J. Hawkins, Councillor Mrs. K.A. Wilson,  
Councillor Brig. J.C.B. Wakeford.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

I.G. Yule, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

Pamela Hunter, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Secretary : Mrs. D.M. Redfern

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer :

E.D. Edwards, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Secretary : Mrs. A.M. Boyton.



R E P O R T  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
For the Year 1966.



BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

Public Health Department,  
69, High Street,  
Saffron Walden.

July, 1967.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1966 concerning the health of the Borough of Saffron Walden.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of 9,150 shows an increase of 240 over the previous year. There was a considerable fall in the number of births from the very high figure recorded in 1965, but the adjusted rate of 17.30 per 1,000 is only slightly below the figure of 17.70 per 1,000 for England and Wales. The increase in the total number of deaths in the Borough is perhaps the most disappointing feature of the statistics, but detailed analysis of these reveals that the majority of this increase was in the age group over 75 years and it is a sad fact that there is no permanent armour against old age. The adjusted death rate for the Borough is still below that for England and Wales and a very pleasing feature of the mortality statistics is the exceptionally low infant mortality rate. The general health of the community as judged by the vital statistics remains very satisfactory.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases showed a slight decrease from the 1965 figures. In particular the absence of a notified case of food poisoning and the fact that only one case of sonne dysentery was recorded reflects favourably on the general level of hygiene. There can however be no relaxation of standards so far as food hygiene is concerned, attention to detail is of particular importance and failure to observe this may well have the most serious consequences.

During the early part of the year the Cervical Cytology Clinic was opened and I am pleased to be able to record my thanks to Dr. Dean and his staff in the pathology department at Newmarket General Hospital for their very great assistance with this project. At the end of 1966, 230 women had attended and in no case was there evidence of early cancer of the cervix, but approximately 10% had other less serious conditions which justified treatment in most cases.

In September the Family Planning Association opened a branch clinic in Saffron Walden. The wealth of voluntary assistance available has helped to ensure the success of this service which is provided every Wednesday evening at the Health Services Clinic, High Street, and by the end of the year it was running very smoothly.





The Voluntary Associations in Saffron Walden are numerous and well supported, they continue to fill the many gaps left by the statutory services in a very able manner. They were again very active in the care and welfare of the elderly and handicapped and many have cause to be grateful for their efforts.

The results of the visit of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit in November provided further support of the decline in the incidence of tuberculosis. Although the final statistics are not yet available a number of other abnormalities were brought to light and as the value of periodic screening procedures becomes more obvious the aim must be to persuade a wider section of the community to avail themselves of these opportunities whether it be for mass x-ray, cervical cytology or another of the growing number of such simple and painless screening tests.

I would once again like to record my thanks to the many people who have assisted and guided me during the year. In particular to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support, to Dr. Pamela Hunter, Mr. Edwards and the other Officers of the Council for their co-operation and readily available advice whenever requested and to Mrs. D. Redfern my secretary whose able assistance has contributed greatly to the smooth running of the department.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

I.G. YULE

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A.

### PROVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

#### (1) General Practitioner Services

These are provided by seven doctors in five practices based in the Borough, three of these are single handed practices and the others have two doctors working in partnership.

Dr. J.H. Bartlett & Dr. R.B. Chalmers, High Street, Tel: 2327.  
Dr. K. Lumsden & Dr. A. Brouet, 33, Church Street, Tel: 2330.  
Dr. Gladys Gray, 67, High Street, Tel: 3683.  
Dr. D. MacLeod, 71, High Street, Tel: 2358.  
Dr. Eleanor J. Shortt, 2, Park Lane, Tel: 3354.

There are four dental practices in the town.

#### (2) Hospital Services

These services are provided by hospitals in the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board and the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. The hospitals which serve the Saffron Walden population are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge, Newmarket and Bishop's Stortford.

Certain special facilities are provided as follows :-

Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are admitted to Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases are accommodated at Newmarket General Hospital, Cambridge Maternity Hospital and Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

Geriatric Units in charge of a Consultant Geriatrician have been established at Chesterton Hospital, Cambridge, and St. James' Hospital, Saffron Walden, and six beds are reserved for geriatric patients at Saffron Walden General Hospital. Particular attention is paid to rehabilitation.

Chest Clinics serving the Borough are available at Saffron Walden Hospital and at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

#### (3) Essex County Council Health Services

Apart from Ambulance and Mental Health Services these are administered on an Area basis, the Borough of Saffron Walden comes within the West Essex Health Area.

The Area Office is situated at Moot House Annexe, The Stow, Harlow, (Telephone: Harlow 25331). The following services and





clinics are provided :-

Health Visiting - This service exists particularly to advise mothers concerning the health of their children especially those under school age. The health visitor has in addition to a wide nursing training specialised training and experience which equips her to deal with many other social problems concerning the family and also the elderly and tuberculous.

At present the Health Visitor serving the Borough is :

Miss E.F.W. Jones,  
Essex County Council Health Services Clinic,  
69, High Street, Saffron Walden.  
Tel: Saffron Walden 2194.

District Nurse and Midwifery - These services are carried out by the following District Nurse/Midwives resident in the Borough :-

District Nurse/Midwives Miss M.M. Anderson &  
Mrs. K. Lambert,  
37, Gibson Close,  
Saffron Walden. Tel: 3209.

District Nurse Mrs. E. Tongue,  
27, Landscape View,  
Saffron Walden. Tel: 3496.

District Nurse Miss J. Corcoran,  
(part-time) 1, Monks Hill,  
Saffron Walden. Tel: 3667.

Home Help Service and Neighbourly Help Service - Applications for these services should be made to the Area Medical Officer, West Essex Area Health Office, Moot House Annexe, The Stow, Harlow, (tel: Harlow 25331). The organiser for the Saffron Walden Area is Mrs. D. Taylor.

Relaxation Classes are held for women during pregnancy at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden, on Monday afternoons.

Women's Welfare Clinic - Advice on contraceptive methods is given to married women where pregnancy would be detrimental to health.

Care of Children up to School Age - Child Welfare sessions are held at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden at 2 p.m. every Friday afternoon.

Facilities are available either by the family doctor or at the Clinic for immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis.

Cervical Cytology Clinic - By appointment on 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of each month, preferably women over 35 years of age.

Health of the School Child - Routine medical inspections are carried out in this area on school entrants, school leavers and children in the 10-12 year age group. Special examinations are carried out as



required. School children can be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, and poliomyelitis, and those in the 12-14 years age group can also be immunized against tuberculosis, with their parents consent.

Dental Services - Treatment for school children is given at  
69, High Street, Saffron Walden by appointment.

Chiropody Clinic - For the elderly, physically handicapped and ante-natal mothers - by appointment every Wednesday at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden.

An Old People's Advisory Clinic is held on the last Wednesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at the Health Services Clinic, 69, High Street, Saffron Walden.

The Mental Health and Ambulance Services are administered directly by the County Health Department, Chelmsford.

A Combined Training Centre for mentally handicapped children and adults is situated in Hill Street, Saffron Walden.

Mental Welfare Officers for the West Essex Area are based at Harlow and can be contacted during office hours at Harlow 26998 and outside office hours via Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow 26791 who will be able to give the name and telephone number of the mental welfare officer on emergency call.

A day and night Ambulance Service is provided and there is an Ambulance Station at Saffron Walden.

Persons requiring an ambulance in an emergency should dial "999" and ask for an ambulance (where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance).

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person, such as a mental welfare officer. Calls should be made to Chelmsford 54801.

#### (4) Laboratory Service

Bacteriological services for the Borough are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.





## SECTION B

### STATISTICS

#### 1. GENERAL

Area (acres) .. .. .	7,502
Population (Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 1966) .. .. .	9,150
Population (Census 1961) .. .. .	8,350
Rateable Value (April 1st, 1966) .. .. .	£447,456
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (year ended 31.3.66) .. .. .	£1,782.10.11d.
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	3,248
Density of Persons per acre .. .. .	1.21
Density of Houses per acre .. .. .	0.43
Average number of occupants per house .. .. .	2.81

#### 2. VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Live Births (total) .. .. .	144
	<u>Males</u> <u>Females</u>
Legitimate                      52      83	
Illegitimate                    1      8	
(b) Live Birth rate per 1,000 population :-	
Crude rate .      ..      ..      ..      ..      ..	15.73
Adjusted rate (Comparability Factor 1.10) .. .. .	17.30
Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	17.7
(c) Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .. .. .	6.25
(d) Stillbirths .. .. .	3
Stillbirths rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths .. .. .	20.40
(e) Infant deaths (Deaths under 1 year) .. .. .	1
Infant Mortality rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) .. .. .	6.94
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales .. .. .	19.0
Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) .      ..      ..      ..	6.94
Perinatal mortality rate (Stillbirths & Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths) .. .. .	27.21
(f) Maternal mortality .. .. .	NIL
(g) Total deaths all ages .. .. .	158
(h) Death rate per 1,000 population :-	
Crude rate .. .. .	17.26
Adjusted rate (Comparability Factor 0.61) .. .. .	10.53
Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	11.7



COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS

	1966	1965	1964	1956	1926
LIVE BIRTHS					
No.	144	170	143	113	67
Crude Rate	15.73	19.07	17.11	15.9	10.4
Adjusted Rate	17.30	20.97	18.82	17.49	-
INFANT DEATHS					
No.	1	2	6	4	3
Rate	6.94	11.76	40.54	35.3	44.7
MATERNAL DEATHS					
No.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL DEATHS					
No.	158	131	116	158	67
Crude Rate	17.26	14.70	13.41	21.5	11.6
Adjusted Rate	10.53	9.40	8.72	13.76	-
POPULATION (Estimated mid-year)	9,150	8,910	8,650	7,340	5,448

MORTALITY TABLE.

Cause of Death.	Sex	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks	3 under 1 year	A G E I N Y E A R S.							Total All Ages	
					1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75 & over	1966
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	4	3
14. Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	6	4
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	5	10	5
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	4
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	4
18. Coronary disease, angina	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	10	18	15
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	20	23	12
19. Hypertension with heart disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
20. Other heart disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	7
21. Other circulatory disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	5
22. Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-
23. Pneumonia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	20
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	12	14

# MORTALITY TABLE (contd.)

Cause of Death.	Sex	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	A G E						Y E A R S.					Total All Ages.	
				1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 & over	1966	1965		
24. Bronchitis	M	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	4	2		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	3	-		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	-		
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1		
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-		
31. Congenital malformations	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	6	6	5		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	8	8	6		
33. Motor vehicle accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
34. All other accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	5	5	3		
35. Suicide	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	M	1	-	1	-	-	1	4	8	19	33	67	67	64		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	10	10	69	91	91	67		

N.B. The numbers on the extreme left refer to the International Classification of Causes of Death. Where no deaths have been recorded, the entry has been excluded.





## MORTALITY TABLE - MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

There were 27 more deaths in 1966 compared with the previous year. These additional deaths as in 1965 when there was a smaller increase, occurred mainly among women in the age group over 75 years. The crude death rate of 17.26 per 1,000 population and the adjusted rate of 10.53 per 1,000 show an increase over the figure for 1965. The adjusted rate however which takes account of the age structure of the population in the Borough is lower than the rate of 11.7 per 1,000 recorded for England and Wales.

Although there was an overall increase in the number of deaths it is pleasing to record that only one death occurred in an infant under the age of 1 year. This gives a very low infant mortality rate of 6.94 deaths per 1,000 live births which is just over one third of the national average of 19.0.

The chief causes of death again fall into three main groups :

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation .. ..	56 deaths (43)	35.4%
Diseases of the Respiratory system .. ..	32 deaths (41)	20.2%
Cancer (all sites) .. .. .	31 deaths (18)	19.6%

1965 figures in brackets.

The increase in deaths from diseases of the Heart and Circulation is wholly accounted for by a large increase in deaths from Coronary Thrombosis particularly among females. Cancer deaths also show an increase despite widespread publicity concerning causative factors in certain types of cancer and an increasing public awareness of the need for early diagnosis to secure adequate and lasting treatment in all cases.

Preventable deaths occurring in people before they reach old age represent the main hope if a decrease in mortality statistics is to be achieved. These deaths are however mainly associated with accidents, heart disease and cancer and the means of prevention often requires a considerable change in our way of life which modern society does not appear to find generally acceptable at the present time.





# SECTION C

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### (1) Notifiable Diseases

Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year :

Disease	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 60	Over 60
Measles .. .. .	36	-	4	9	8	4	9	-	1	1	-
Meningococcal Septicaemia .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Sonne Dysentery .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis .. .. .	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Measles .. .. .	8	-	-	-	2	16	2	1	2	1	2	2
Meningococcal Septicaemia .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sonne Dysentery .. .. .	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-



The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases showed little change from the previous year. Measles was as usual numerically the most prominent. Sonne dysentery was prevalent in the surrounding area during the year but only one case was notified in the Borough. This suggests a good standard of hygiene was maintained.

The absence of cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis and smallpox continued during 1966 and is naturally a pleasing feature of this report. It should not however give anyone a false sense of security and the feeling that these diseases no longer represent a danger. They will always remain dangerous and the only satisfactory way to combat them is by means of appropriate immunization and vaccination starting in infancy.

### Tuberculosis

The total number of cases on the tuberculosis register in the Borough at 31st December 1966 was 16, the same figure as the previous year. During 1966 three cases were removed from the register as cured, their condition being regarded as satisfactory. These removals were balanced by two new cases and one inward transfer. The inward transfer and one of the new cases were non-pulmonary involving glands in the neck. The other new case was a fairly acute pulmonary infection in a young Spanish immigrant who came to work in Saffron Walden during the summer. This was diagnosed a short time after his arrival and the response to treatment was very satisfactory.

#### (2) Mass X-Ray

The Unit visited Saffron Walden Borough during November 1966. Total attendances although slightly down compared with the previous visit, possibly due to the time of year, were nevertheless satisfactory.

Number attended :

1. Acrow Ltd., Saffron Walden .. .. .	273
2. Stanley Wilson Lodge, Saffron Walden . . .	86
3. General Public and Small Firms	
Saffron Walden .. ..	1926
	<hr/>
Total	2285
	<hr/>

Final details of the findings are not yet available but no new active cases of tuberculosis were discovered and the Medical Director of the Unit comments "we can say that out of a fair sample of groups offered x-rays who are not at risk, there seems to be no reservoir of tuberculosis building up". The figures relating to cases which required follow up or further investigation after x-ray should be available in the near future.

#### (3) National Assistance Act 1948 (Section 47)

This section gives power for the removal to suitable premises of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being



aged, infirm or physically handicapped or living in unhealthy conditions are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons proper care and attention. This power is fortunately rarely required and is only used in very extreme circumstances; whenever possible attempts are made to provide services and assistance so that the person can remain in his own home. It was found unnecessary to take action under this Section during the year.





## SECTION D

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the following report :-

#### (1) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

In view of the continued development of the town and the increasing age of the sewage disposal works the Borough Council have appointed Messrs. Lemon & Blizard of London as their consultants to prepare a report on the present system and the works required for a new disposal plant. This scheme will include provision for dealing with the sewerage problems of Swards End and Little Walden.

The Councils small disposal plants on Council estates at Swards End and Little Walden continue to function satisfactorily.

#### (2) Swimming Bath

The standard of water purification at the Council's indoor heated swimming bath remains high and ever increasing use is being made of the bath by schools both within and outside the County area, the Services and clubs of various kinds.

Reconstruction of the changing and bathing rooms at the south end on the first floor is in hand. It is intended to improve the ladies toilets and increase changing capacity at peak times with a reduction in slipper bath capacity.

#### (3) Water Supply

Through-out the district the standard of mains water for domestic purposes has been maintained at a high level as regards quality. The supply has been satisfactory at all times.

Number of dwellinghouses and population served -

(a) Direct to houses	-	3,217 houses	Population 9,083
(b) By means of standpipes	-	25 houses	Population 53
Total population served - 9,136			





## ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

From Saffron Walden Borough Council per E.C.C.

Labelled - Tap, Municipal Offices, Saffron Walden - mains supply  
from bore in chalk.

### Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance :	Bright with particles	Hardness : Total .....	150
Turbidity :	Less than 3	Carbonate 150)	
Colour .....	Nil	Non-carbonate 0)	
Odour .....	Faintly "chlorinous"	Nitrate Nitrogen .....	8.5
pH. ....	7.1	Nitrite Nitrogen .....	Absent.
Free Carbon Dioxide .....	45	Ammoniacal Nitrogen .....	0.01
Electric Conductivity .....	620	Oxygen Absorbed .....	0.00
Dissolved Solids		Albuminoid Nitrogen .....	0.00
dried at 180°C. ....	440	Residual Chlorine .....	0.05
Chlorine present as Chloride .	23	Metals - Iron, Zinc,	
Alkalinity as		Copper, Lead .....	Absent.
Calcium Carbonate .....	270		

### Bacteriological Results.

Number of colonies developing (1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20-22°C.			
on Agar per ml. in	( ...	...	...
	Present in	Absent from	Probable number
Presumptive Coliform reaction	... ml.	... ml.	... per 100 ml.
Bact.coli. (Type I)	... ml.	... ml.	... per 100 ml.
Cl.welchii reaction	... ml.	... ml.	

### REPORT ON THE RESULT OF THE ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The hardness of the water is very moderate and its content of mineral and saline constituents is not considered excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes. A very useful degree of softening has been achieved by the base-exchange process but, in connection with this, removal of a substantial proportion of the free carbon dioxide would be advantageous from the aspect of minimising action on metals.



R E P O R T

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Four the Year 1966.



REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1966.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors of the Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my twelfth Annual Report of the work and duties carried out by myself or on my instructions during the year 1966.

The year in question was, on the whole, one of normal routine and there are but a few matters to which I need draw particular attention.

In the preface to my Annual Report for 1965, I drew attention to the unsatisfactory conditions which exist in and around the village of Swards End due to the discharge of effluent from septic tanks, and similar, into ditches and watercourses. Following a further report on this matter it was learnt that the Councils' Consulting Engineers, who were investigating the provision of a new sewage works for Saffron Walden, had been requested to also include in their report the provision of a sewerage scheme for Swards End. The report of the Consulting Engineers was received and adopted in principle by the Council on the 12th May, 1967, and the report included the extension of the sewer to the village of Swards End. The consultants were also requested to include in the scheme an extension of the sewer in Little Walden Road to a point in the village of Little Walden.

Although realising it will be some considerable time before proper means of sewage disposal for these villages can be provided, it is particularly pleasing to me as the Councils' Public Health Inspector to know these matters are receiving active consideration and will eventually be the means of removing certain hazards to public health in these villages.

In providing the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961, (Pages 19 & 20) it will be seen that only one factory was inspected during the year. This is due to the fact that I am of the opinion any time available for the inspection of working conditions of employees is, at present, best used on the inspection of those places of work where previously there was little or no control over working conditions. I refer to offices, warehouses, shops and fuel storage depots to which the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963, applies.

Local authority responsibility at factories where mechanical power is used basically consists of ensuring that adequate and satisfactory sanitary accommodation is provided. Such facilities are also inspected





by H.M. Factory Inspectors who have a wide range of responsibilities for the health, safety and welfare of factory workers. This means in effect that two different officers are carrying out the same task and this could be considered as an unnecessary duplication of effort by the officers concerned.

I have been informed that when the Factories Act of 1938 was in the making there was a move to pass the responsibilities regarding sanitary accommodation at factories from local authorities to H.M. Factory Inspectorate. It appears this came to nothing as the various local authority associations resisted the suggestion on the grounds that local authorities would lose an important duty. If a similar opportunity should occur in the future one would hope all concerned would adopt a more enlightened and progressive attitude regarding this matter.

My thanks are due to Dr. I.G. Yule, Medical Officer of Health, his Secretary, Mrs. D.M. Redfern and all Chief Officers and Staff at the Municipal Offices for their willing help and co-operation throughout the year. In a comparatively small office one is very conscious of this reciprocal help together with an awareness and knowledge of each department's day to day problems and work.

A particular thank you to my Secretary, Mrs. A.M. Boyton, with whom the office is safely left in my absence to deal with public health and housing enquiries in a most knowledgeable and tactful way. In conclusion I would like to thank the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for their support and interest during the year.

I am Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.D. EDWARDS

Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer.





# REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER.

Summary of Visits and Inspections recorded during the Year :-

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED .. .. .	28
TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED .. .. .	1205

## Public Health.

Public Health Act .. .. .	49
Re-inspections .. .. .	39
Premises affected with insect pests .. .. .	5
Drainage and conservancy .. .. .	23
Smoke abatement : Visits . .. .	5
Observations . .. .	-
Noise Abatement .. .. .	3
Moveable Dwellings .. .. .	3
Miscellaneous Visits .. .. .	46

## Housing.

Overcrowding .. .. .	1
Housing Act .. .. .	1
Re-inspections .. .. .	-
Miscellaneous . .. .	17

## Water Supply.

Inspections and investigations .. .. .	4
Visits re: Water Sampling . .. .	126

## Food & Drugs Act.

Meat Inspections at Slaughterhouses .. .. .	400
Inspection of Food & visits regarding soundness of same .	41
Inspections of Food Premises .. .. .	72
Inspections of Slaughterhouses .. .. .	6

## Infectious Disease.

Enquiries .. .. .	15
Re-visits .. .. .	12
Disinfections . .. .	1

Shops, Offices & Railway Premises Act : Inspections . .. .	76
Visits .. .. .	81

Shops Act Inspections . .. .	-
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Factories Act Inspections .. .. .	1
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Factories Act Inspections - Outworkers .. .. .	1
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Pet Animals Act; Animal Boarding Establishments Act . .. .	1
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Rodent Control .. .. .	28
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Scrap Metal Dealers Act .. .. .	-
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Waste Foods Order .. .. .	3
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Visits in connection with :-

Applications for Council accommodation .. .. .	32
Tenancies of Council accommodation .. .. .	113



## ACTION UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Informal notices served which required the remedy of :-

i. defects at dwellinghouses	..	..	..	..	5
ii. nuisance from foul ditches and watercourses due to the discharge of effluent from septic tanks and similar	..	..	..	..	1
iii. nuisance caused by accumulations of offensive matter					2
iv. nuisance caused by emission of dust	..	..	..		Nil
v. unsatisfactory water supplies from wells	..	..			4

Informal notices complied with in respect of :-

i. defects at dwelling-houses	..	..	..	..	10
ii. nuisance from foul ditches and watercourses due to the discharge of effluent from septic tanks and similar	..	..	..	..	2
iii. nuisance caused by accumulations of offensive matter					2
iv. nuisance caused by emission of dust	..	..	..		2
v. defective drains	..	..	..	..	4

One formal notice was served and was still outstanding at the end of the year.

Details of defects and nuisances remedied are listed on Page 18 of this Report.

## THE CONTROL OF INSECT PESTS.

Several wasps nests were destroyed during the year and, where these occurred in or about domestic or business properties, were charged for at 10/- for each treatment carried out. A few nests were also destroyed in roadside verges and similar public property.

Advice was requested in the case of a warehouse which was thought to be infested with insects as staff visiting the warehouse afterwards complained of skin irritation. No insects likely to cause such irritation were found on inspection of the premises but the dark, dusty and dilapidated building was such that little imagination was necessary before one felt 'itchy'. The entire building was disinfested throughout and this had the desired effect as further complaint has yet to be received.

Two flats were reported to be infested with cockroaches and disinfestation was carried out. The source of the infestation was traced to adjoining business premises and occupier was requested to arrange for the necessary disinfestation work and this was done.

One Council dwelling which had been treated for insect vermin two years previously was disinfested throughout when it came vacant. No evidence of a current infestation was found but disinfestation was





decided upon to ensure there was no risk to the future tenant.

Advice as to means of controlling insects not of public health significance was also given on several occasions.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE ENQUIRIES AND CONTROL.

15 enquiries and 12 re-visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Action mainly consisted of advising the person concerned as to ways and means of preventing the spread of infection to their families and the public at large. Disinfection was carried out as and when necessary.

The enquiries concerned the following notifiable diseases or suspected cases :-

Meningococcal septicaemia .. .. .	1
Suspected food poisoning .. .. .	1 (4 people)
Contacts of food poisoning (salmonella typhimurium) . . . . .	2
Contacts of typhoid .. .. .	5
Sonne dysentery .. .. .	1
Suspected dysentery (not confirmed) .. .	1 (4 people)
Scarlet fever .. .. .	2
Tuberculosis .. .. .	1

### ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

#### Repair of Dwellings.

It was not necessary to serve any notices for the repair of houses which appeared to be unfit for human habitation. One informal notice which had previously been served was complied with.

Details of defects remedied are listed on Page 18 of this Report.

#### Demolition, closure etc., of unfit houses.

Two houses were closed and 2 families totalling 2 persons were displaced from these houses, one of these persons was re-housed by the Council and the other was offered an almshouse.

Nos.5,6,7,8,9,10, Freshwell Gardens, which were subject to Closing Orders, were demolished, as was No.10, Debden Road. No.8, Debden Road was not subject to a Closing Order but was also demolished by the Council as the owners.

The 8 houses in the Fairycroft Road Clearance Area were demolished and the site cleared for future building.

The Closing Orders previously issued for Nos.3,4, Copt Hall Buildings



were determined after these houses were repaired, improved and made in all respects fit for human habitation.

#### Overcrowding.

No new cases of statutory overcrowding were recorded during the year. Of the two cases previously registered, one was remedied when another family living in the house returned to their own home. The one outstanding case cannot be so easily remedied because the Council as landlords in this instance have no accommodation of a suitable size available. The best solution to this problem appears to be to add an extension to the existing house.

#### General.

No new Council Dwellings were erected but 129 Private Dwellings were completed and occupied for the first time. At the end of the year there were approximately 3,248 occupied dwellings of all types.

### FACTORIES and OUTWORKERS.

1 inspection was made of premises registered as a factory.

1 person was registered as an outworker and 1 inspection was made of outworkers premises.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961, are given on Pages 19 & 20 of this Report.

### NOISE ABATEMENT.

Only one complaint was received and this alleged that a neighbour was causing nuisance and annoyance by operating a machine in his cellar.

On investigation it was found the noise complained of could only just be heard when standing close to the party wall in one room of the complainant's house. The level of noise could be likened to that of a vacuum cleaner being used in the adjoining house.

The neighbour was visited and it was found that such noise as there was came from an electric motor operating a small metal working lathe. The lathe was used for the purpose of a hobby, usually during the evening. Although no action was justified it was arranged through the co-operation of the neighbour that the lathe would not be used after 9:30 p.m.





## CLEAN AIR.

5 visits were made in connection with the Clean Air Act and as a result 2 informal notices were served where inhabitants of the neighbourhood suffered nuisance. Both notices were complied with immediately.

### National Survey of Air Pollution.

The apparatus for the daily measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide, first put into operation as from 29th October, 1963, continued in use. The information provided is of greatest value in connection with the national survey of air pollution and several years still need to elapse before useful comparisons of local interest can be made.

Although of no great or particular significance, I have again compared measurements taken in Saffron Walden to those taken from certain other towns picked at random in various parts of England. These measurements are shown in the table on Page 21 and are the average daily readings for the first three months of 1966.



TABLE "A"  
REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Class of Premises.	Number of premises registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices .. .. .	7	64	12
Retail Shops .. .. .	10	103	49
Wholesale shops, warehouses .	-	4	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens .. .	-	6	-
Fuel storage depots .. .. .	-	2	2
TOTALS	17	179	65

TABLE "B"

Number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises	157
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TABLE "C"  
ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed.
Offices .. .. .	344
Retail shops .. .. .	471
Wholesale departments, warehouses .. .. .	56
Catering establishments open to the public .. .. .	38
Canteens .. .. .	3
Fuel storage depots .. .. .	5
Total .. .. .	917
Total Males . . . . .	423
Total Females .. . . .	494



TABLE "D"  
EXEMPTIONS GRANTED.

Part I	Space (Section 5 (2))	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Part II	Temperature (Section 6)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Part III	Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Part IV	Washing Facilities (Section 10)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

TABLE "E"  
PROSECUTIONS.

Prosecutions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
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TABLE "F"  
INSPECTORS.

Number of inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil





The Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Registration & Inspection : An employer is required to notify the appropriate authority of his intention to employ persons in any shop or office before he begins to employ these persons.

In practice this is seldom done and it is usually necessary to watch for new shops and offices being opened. This is quite easy in the case of shops but on occasions it is possible to come across an office which is not registered but which has been in use for some considerable time. When contacted the majority of employers plead ignorance of the Act and this may well be so due to lack of recent publicity.

There was an excellent national publicity campaign when the Act first came into force and such a campaign once or twice a year would be most useful to ensure the requirements of the Act were known to the public at large.

17 new offices and shops were registered during the year and each employer needed to be contacted at least once before completed forms of notification were received.

Inspections were carried out as and when time was available and although progress was reasonable in the circumstances there were many premises at the end of the year which had yet to receive a full initial inspection.

Operation of the General Provisions of the Act : No particular difficulties were encountered in obtaining the satisfactory remedy of contraventions found during the course of inspection. The majority of premises fell short of requirements in comparatively minor respects only but of particular note were the number of cases where floors, stairs and/or passages were found to be in an unsatisfactory or dangerous condition. These defects were readily apparent and but little thought was necessary by the employers concerned in order to appreciate the potential risk of injury to which their employees were being exposed. A particular example was in the case of three newly erected shops which each had a straight flight of stairs to and from the first floor store rooms. No handrails were provided and it needed little imagination to realise that a person tripping at the head of the staircase would quite easily fall from top to bottom and probably suffer serious injury.

It was hoped that action would be taken during the year to make regulations which would lay down definite standards of lighting required in the various types of workplaces covered by the Act. Although such regulations seemed likely they did not materialise. In practice the standard recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society is aimed for and to date I have found employers quite willing to improve the lighting of their premises to this level where the existing means of lighting are shown to be inadequate. A definite standard is of advantage if difficulty should arise however, and I would hope any minimum level of lighting provided by regulation would be to at least the minimum



standards recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society.

An analysis of the contraventions found on inspection is as follows :-

Want of cleanliness	7	Seating facilities	Nil
Overcrowding	Nil	Eating facilities	Nil
Temperature - inadequate	3	Unsatisfactory or dangerous	
- thermometer required	10	floors, passages & stairs	16
Ventilation	4	Fencing of machinery	Nil
Lighting	9	Prohibition of heavy work	Nil
Unsuitable or inadequate sanitary conveniences	7	Want of prescribed First Aid Materials	18
Unsuitable or inadequate washing facilities	9	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	Nil
Inadequate supply of drinking water	Nil	Training of young persons working dangerous machinery	Nil
Lack of suitable clothing accommodation	Nil		

TOTAL CONTRAVENTIONS 83

A total of 31 notices were served requiring these contraventions to be remedied. 36 notices were complied with and this total includes several notices served the previous year.

Accidents : 4 accidents were notified during the year and each was investigated. These were :-

1. described as the employee 'racking' her back in picking up a bottle.
2. cutting of the hand in the opening of a can in a grocers shop.
3. cut above the eye due to slipping in a room at the rear of a butchers shop, the employee striking her head on a spring balance suspended from a rail. Although this accident could not be attributed to neglect by the employer, it was requested that the spring balance be located elsewhere in the room to guard against a similar accident occurring.
4. injuries to hand from blades of a planing machine. This machine was being assembled in an ironmongers prior to delivery to a customer for use in a home workshop. The machine was fitted with a suitable guard which appeared adequate when the machine was in use. The employee suffered his injuries when moving round the machine to check an adjustment and caught his sleeve on the guide, causing him to lose his balance. His fingers caught the blades of the machine when putting out his hand to steady himself.





# FOOD PREMISES and FOOD INSPECTION.

There are 88 premises within the Borough and particulars requested in connection with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 are shown below -

Type of food premises.	Number.	Premises which comply with Regulation 16 (Provision of wash-hand basins).	Premises to which Regulation 19 applies (Provision of sinks for washing food and equipment).	Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19.
Restaurants & cafes	6	6	6	6
School & factory canteens	9	9	9	9
Hotels & Licensed Premises	21	21	21	21
Butchers	7	7	7	7
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Bakers & Confectioners shops	4	4	4	4
Wet fish shops	2	2	2	2
Wet & fried fish shops	2	2	2	2
Fried fish shops	1	1	1	1
Grocers	9	9	6	6
General stores (groceries, sweets etc.)	14	14	7	6
Sweet shops	7	7	-	-
Greengrocers	4	4	4	4





13 food premises continued to be registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed or preserved food.

A total of 38 premises were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the sale and storage of ice-cream or similar commodity. Three registrations were new and two registrations were given up. No ice-cream is manufactured in the Borough.

An average of 21 food vehicles (other than delivery vans) and stalls operate in the Borough. The types are as follows :-

Mobile butchers shops .. .. .	5
Fish Stalls .. .. .	1
Mobile Fish and Chip Fryers .. .. .	1
Sweet Stalls .. .. .	1
Mobile Grocery shops .. .. .	2
Fruit and Vegetable stalls .. .. .	4
Mobile greengrocers .. .. .	2
Ice-cream vehicles .. .. .	5

Food premises were inspected as and when possible and the general standard continued to be satisfactory. 4 informal notices were served for such matters as need of decoration, structural defects, cleanliness of equipment, etc.

72 inspections of food premises were recorded during the year, a few premises receiving several inspections for various reasons as compared to those which were not inspected at all.

#### Food Inspection.

26 visits were made for the purpose of examining various foodstuffs to determine whether or not they were fit for human consumption. In all cases the food was surrendered voluntarily and was subsequently destroyed.

The types and quantities of food surrendered were as follows :-

<u>Tinned Food.</u>		<u>Other Food.</u>	
Meat	190 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Various frozen foods	128 lbs.
Fruit	119 lbs.	Frozen chickens	50 lbs.
Vegetables	48 lbs.	Frozen kidneys	37 lbs.
Soup	15 lbs.	Frozen liver	10 lbs.
Fish	11 lbs.		
Milk	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.		
Preserves	2 lbs.		

15 other visits were made concerning the fitness of food for human consumption or in response to complaints with regard to food.

A total of 8 complaints were received concerning the suitability of foodstuffs purchased by customers and there was justification for complaint in all but one case. On investigation the causes for complaints



were as follows :-

Normal risk with particular type of foodstuff concerned & against which little action possible by shop-keeper ..	2
Mishandling or lack of knowledge of care necessary with particular food-stuff concerned . .. ..	3
Breakdowns of plant or other abnormal conditions .. ..	2

No formal action was taken but the necessary warnings were given and advice or direction to prevent similar complaints in the future. All such action is recorded and if a similar complaint occurred, or advice or direction was disregarded, the Council would be recommended to take the appropriate formal action.

### MEAT INSPECTION.

There was a reduction in the number of animals slaughtered for food in the Borough as compared with recent years. The cause for this reduction was due to small changes at each of the slaughterhouses concerned. At one slaughterhouse a small wholesale trade in pigs was more or less discontinued and, at the other, an arrangement to slaughter one or two cattle each week for a butcher in a nearby village was ended.

Comparative figures are as follows :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1955.	475	1724	704	40	2943
1957.	550	2599	470	41	3660
1959.	398	2422	1133	22	3975
1961.	706	2234	1127	23	4090
1963.	763	2617	1101	10	4491
1965.	732	2863	793	2	4390
1966.	648	2693	678	8	4027

Every animal slaughtered at either of the two slaughterhouses was inspected as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. The charges for meat inspection as permitted by the Regulations produced the sum of £199. 4. 9d.

The number of animals where part of the carcase or offal was rejected as being unfit for human consumption was rather higher than previous years. The greater part of these rejections were due to parasitic conditions, particularly in the liver of the animal affected. In cattle this was





mainly due to liver fluke and in pigs to a worm which gives rise to a liver condition commonly known as milk spot. The amounts of meat and offal rejected are shown below and represent only a very minute proportion of the carcase meat and offal released for human consumption :-

1955.	1 ton.	16 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1957.	1 ton.	19 cwts.	2 qrs.	3 lbs.
1959.	1 ton.	11 cwts.	0 qrs.	13 lbs.
1961.	1 ton.	7 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1963.	1 ton.	10 cwts.	3 qrs.	23 lbs.
1965.	1 ton.	4 cwts.	1 qr.	15 lbs.
1966.	1 ton.	2 cwts.	3 qrs.	5 lbs.

### Slaughterhouse Facilities.

Conditions at both slaughterhouses continued to be satisfactory and minor repairs and improvements were carried out at both premises.

### General.

The work of meat inspection continued smoothly with the ready co-operation and help of management and staff at both slaughterhouses as during previous years.

Some meat inspection continued to be necessary outside normal working hours and a visit to one or both slaughterhouses is made late on every Saturday afternoon for a total period of 1 to 1½ hours.

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, gave local authorities the power to control the hours of slaughter. Bearing in mind local needs and conditions it was recommended that no action be taken for the present to control the hours of slaughter within the Borough.

400 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection.

A summary of carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part is given on Page 22 of this Report.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

### Main supplies.

The routine sampling for bacteriological examination of the mains water supplies provided by the Lee Valley Water Company was carried out at weekly intervals during the year except when absent on leave. Samples were collected over a wide area of the Borough in order to ensure results were representative of the Borough as a whole. All samples for bacteriological analysis were completely satisfactory.

A sample was also taken for chemical analysis and a copy of the report





is given on Page 13 of the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

The Lee Valley Water Company have a statutory obligation to supply water to the Borough of a hardness not exceeding 180 mg/litre. The chemical analysis report of 150 mg/litre total hardness was well within the permitted maximum.

#### Well supplies.

Four deep wells providing the only source of water to 6 dwellings and 1 factory continued in use and, as routine, were sampled either at monthly or quarterly intervals according to the results of samples in the past.

Two wells gave unsatisfactory reports over several months and the owner or owner/occupiers, as appropriate, were recommended to provide other means of water supply. In one case a mains supply is now available within 30 feet of the property but in the other the nearest main supply is approximately 200 yards.

#### Swimming Bath.

Samples from the Municipal Swimming Bath were highly satisfactory and comparable to water direct from the main supply.

#### Summary of samples collected for bacteriological examination.

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Main supply - Town Area	28	28	Nil
Main supply - Swards End	15	15	Nil
Main supply - Audley End Village	22	22	Nil
Main supply - Little Walden			
Direct from Town	7	7	Nil
Indirect (via Water Tower, Little Walden)	12	12	Nil
Main supply - Other parts of Borough	5	5	Nil
Well supplies in use	33	18	15
Municipal Swimming Bath	4	4	Nil



## RODENT CONTROL.

The number of infestations notified or found on routine survey for rats were 46% higher than the previous year. Infestations were generally small and tended to be on the outer edges of the Town which was no doubt due to rats migrating from farm and other land.

Rodent control at the refuse tips continued to be very satisfactory and the level of infestation is the lowest I have known. This is, of course, partly due to the levelling and covering of the refuse at the new tip as compared with the old tip where the refuse was deposited without covering and which allowed ready infestation by rats. There are now no more rats at the refuse tips than one would be likely to find on agricultural land.

As a result of notification or routine survey a total of 182 premises or land areas were found to be infested with rats and 12 with mice. A total of 203 treatments and re-treatments were carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator.

A routine treatment of the Town sewers was carried out during May, bait being laid in 96 inspection chambers situated at various points over the whole sewered area. 26 manholes showed take of bait and this was much higher than of recent years. Evidence of rats in the sewers was generally in those parts of the Town where new building work was in progress and it appears this was probably due to rats entering the sewers from drain connections which had been left open temporarily.

Two fatalities occurred in Hertfordshire towards the end of the year from Leptospirosis (Weils Disease) and the reports on these cases in the press, radio, etc. brought home to the public the risk they run of infection where rats frequent. Leptospira are commonly found in the urine of rats and all who handle articles, crops and such like which may be fouled by rats run risk of infection. Fortunately the Leptospira die quite easily as they need warmth, neutral ph and moisture to survive, hence the greater risk during the warmer months of the year. The most common mode of transmission is said to be by penetration of abraded skin and the use of gloves where there is risk is advised.

The presence of rats is found either by routine survey by the rodent operator or by notification by occupiers of property. In this latter case I would request the fullest co-operation in the interest of public health and that evidence of rats be reported to the Council at the earliest opportunity. The destruction of rats and mice is a free service to private house-holders. Occupiers of business and agricultural premises are charged for the rodent operator's time and the materials used.





## HOUSING APPLICATIONS and TENANCIES.

The number of new applications for Council accommodation was 87 as compared with 113 in the previous year.

A summary of applications outstanding at the end of the year is as follows :-

Applications from :

Single persons .. .. .	15	(14)
Single elderly persons .. .. .	53	(44)
Married elderly couples &c. .. .. .	47	(43)
Married couples with :		
No children .. .. .	53	(66)
One child .. .. .	66	(60)
Two children (same sex) .. .. .	23	(29)
Two children (opposite sex) .. .. .	24	(20)
Three children (same sex) .. .. .	7	(7)
Three children (opposite sexes) .. .. .	12	(13)
Four children (same sex) .. .. .	1	(1)
Four children (opposite sex) .. .. .	4	(2)
Five children (same sex) .. .. .	1	(1)
Five children (opposite sexes) .. .. .	1	(1)
Total applicants		307 (301)

(Figures in brackets refer to 1965).

81 names were withdrawn from the list of applicants for the following reasons :-

Purchased own houses .. .. .	7
Found other accommodation .. .. .	11
Removed from District .. .. .	14
Miscellaneous reasons .. .. .	33
Granted tenancies .. .. .	16

No new houses were built during the year but 15 existing dwellings came vacant.

The reasons for the existing dwellings coming vacant are as follows :-

Tenant transferred to Pleasant Valley Cottages ..	1
Left District .. .. .	7
Through old age, illness or death .. .. .	4
Tenants who obtained other accommodation .. .. .	3

There were no new Council dwellings under construction at the end of





the year but it was expected to commence work during 1967 on the erection of 28 flats for elderly persons on the Fairycroft Road site and houses for general needs at Peaslands Road.

Council accommodation occupied during the year was as follows :-

	<u>Families</u>
New accommodation let for the first time :	
(a) to applicants .. .. .	-
(b) to applicants displaced from condemned houses	-
(c) to transferred Council tenants .. ..	-
Existing accommodation let :	
(a) to applicants .. .. .	16
(b) families displaced from condemned houses ..	-
(c) to transferred Council tenants .. ..	4
Tenants allowed to change tenancies with :	
(a) other tenants of the Council .. .. .	4
(b) tenants of other local authorities .. ..	1
	<hr/>
New tenancies	<u>25</u>

Council owned accommodation at the end of the year consisted of the following :-

	<u>Pre-war.</u>	<u>Post-war.</u>
4 bedroom houses	2	22
3 bedroom houses	160	422
2 bedroom houses	-	30
2 bedroom flats	-	44
2 bedroom Arcon bungalows	-	20
Bed-sitting room flats	16	-
<u>For elderly persons.</u>		
2 bedroom flats	-	30
2 bedroom bungalows	-	8
1 bedroom bungalows	-	2
1 bedroom flats	-	18
Bed-sitting room flats	-	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	<u>178 pre-war dwellings.</u>	<u>602 post-war dwellings.</u>

32 visits were made in connection with housing applications and 113 visits in connection with matters affecting Council tenancies.



DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES ABATED.

(Under Public Health & Housing Acts).

General.

Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Emissions of Dust Abated	..	..	..	..	..	1

Drainage.

Obstructed drains cleared	..	..	..	..	1
Water-closets repaired, improved or re-constructed	..	..	..	..	3
Unsatisfactory discharge of effluent from septic tanks discontinued	..	..	..	..	6

Repairs to Dwellinghouses.

Roofs repaired	...	..	..	..	..	..	5
Rainwater pipes and gutters repaired, renewed or provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Floors renewed or repaired - rooms	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dampness remedied - rooms	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Doors and windows repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Staircases and steps repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Yard paving repaired or renewed - houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
External walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	2



# FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

## Part I of the Act.

### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sect. 1,2,3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority.	1	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	58	1	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	59	1	NIL	NIL

### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL





Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134).

Section 133.

No. of out-workers in August  
list required by Sect.133 (1)(c).

No. of cases of default in  
sending lists to Council

No. of prosecutions for  
failure to supply lists

Section 134.

No. of instances of work in  
unwholesome premises.

Notices served.

Prosecutions

Nature of Work.	
Wearing Apparel.	
Making etc.	Cleaning & washing.
1	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-



Average daily measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide taken at Saffron Walden and other localities during the period 4th January, 1966 to 4th April, 1966.

CONCENTRATIONS OF SMOKE and  $\text{SO}_2$  EXPRESSED IN MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE.

SITE	POPULATION (thousands)	NATIONAL SURVEY CLASSIFICATION FOR SITE OF INSTRUMENT.	SMOKE	SULPHUR DIOXIDE.
Saffron Walden	9.0	Small town centre; limited commercial area mixed with old residential housing and possibly minor industry.	60 (63)	87 (86)
Town, Yorkshire Moors.	9.4	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	186 (191)	151 (189)
Town, Hertfordshire.	20.0	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	77 (62)	81 (61)
Seaside town, North Wales.	21.6	AS FOR SAFFRON WALDEN.	123	141
City, Midlands.	495.2	Residential area with high-density housing, interspersed with some industrial undertakings and surrounded by other built-up areas. In the process of becoming a smoke control area.	196 (267)	82 (127)
North London - 2 miles from CITY.	-----	AS FOR CITY, MIDLANDS.	111	411

The figures in brackets are the average daily measurements for approximately the same period in 1965 in the localities listed.



MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	648	Nil	8	678	2693	Nil
Number inspected	648	Nil	8	678	2693	Nil
<u>All diseases and conditions except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	97	Nil	3	41	304	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease or a condition other than tuberculosis.	15%	Nil	37.5%	6%	11.3%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	33	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.2%	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



